

**TOM UDALL**

3D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

1410 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6190

811 SAINT MICHAELS DRIVE  
SUITE 104  
SANTA FE, NM 87505  
(505) 984-8950

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June 24, 2008

The Honorable Edward T. Schafer  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Schafer:

I respectfully request you expeditiously consider the State of New Mexico's petition for a statewide natural disaster designation. All of New Mexico's 33 counties have suffered significant physical and production losses to agriculture during the last year of high temperatures, severe winds, and widespread drought.

Since October 1, 2007, New Mexico agriculturalists have continued to incur damages as a result of the ongoing high temperatures and lack of precipitation. It is forecasted that these extreme conditions will not dissipate in the coming months. Although hay, pasture, and forage crops have been most acutely affected, the range of New Mexico agricultural production has been impacted. Additionally, extreme fire danger threatens most of the state.

I thank you for your careful consideration of the precarious situation in New Mexico, and urge your prompt implementation of Governor Richardson's request for Secretarial designation of all 33 New Mexico counties as primary disaster areas.

Sincerely

Tom Udall  
Member of Congress

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RIO RANCHO CITY HALL  
3200 CIVIC CENTER CIRCLE, NE  
SUITE 330  
RIO RANCHO, NM 87144  
(505) 994-0499